

~~RESTRICTED~~

27 March 1952

The U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, California, was formerly the Lake Norconian Club, construction of which was completed in 1928. It was officially commissioned as a Naval Hospital on 22 December 1941. The hospital is about seven hundred (700) feet above sea level and approximately fifty (50) miles southeast of Los Angeles, forty (40) miles northeast of Long Beach, fourteen (14) miles southwest of Riverside and four (4) miles north of Corona. The nearest railroad is at Corona. There are six hundred fifteen (615) acres in the hospital reservation including a sixty (60) acre artificial lake. Two hundred fifty (250) acres might be classified as dry farm land and the remainder as semi-arid desert land. Temperatures range usually from just below freezing in the winter to 105° in the summer. There is usually an afternoon westerly breeze of approximately fifteen (15) miles per hour, with periodic thirty (30) to forty (40) mile per hour winds lasting from six (6) to thirty-six (36) hours during the fall and winter months.

After being acquired by the Navy in December of 1941, the original club buildings were rapidly converted into a 286 bed hospital. During the next several years many new buildings were constructed bringing the original total up to 126 of which 49 were of permanent construction, 34 of semi-permanent, and 43 temporary. At that time, this hospital was a special hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and poliomyelitis.

This hospital was disestablished on 1 November 1949, and all equipment was transferred to other activities, and the buildings placed in a caretaker status. In February 1951, authority was given to the Bureau of Standards to take over the separate Tuberculosis Unit, and establish a laboratory for special Bureau of Standards research.

On June 1, 1951, the hospital was recommissioned under a commanding officer, the mission being a general hospital for the Armed Forces and their dependents. The long process of rehabilitation was then started and still is in process.

The hospital was composed of three (3) separate units or hospitals, namely Units I, II, and III. Each unit had its own power plant, laboratory, operating rooms, X-ray rooms, galley, mess hall, recreation facilities and theatre. Unit I, the original Lake Norconian Club building with Navy-built ward addition, provides the major administrative offices, special departments, and transportation, maintenance and repair facilities for the entire hospital. General medical and surgical cases are admitted to this unit which has a bed capacity of six hundred fifty (650) on eight (8) foot centers. All buildings in this unit are of permanent construction. Unit II was entirely for tubercular patients and was completely equipped four hundred seventy-six (476) bed special type hospital. This is the unit given to the Bureau of Standards.

Unit III is also a complete one thousand and forty (1040) bed facility of temporary construction. There are 30 wards in this Unit, 22 of which are in active use at the present time.

Transportation, laundry, and the maintenance shops are all located in Unit I, in the original Norconian Club garage and laundry buildings. Bachelor Officers' Quarters, the Chapel, occupational therapy, and the Corpsmen, Wave and Nurses' Quarters are a part of this unit.

The total bed capacity of this hospital on eight (8) foot centers is one thousand six hundred and ninety (1690), with ~~six hundred fifty~~ (650) beds in Unit I, and one thousand and forty (1040) beds in Unit III. The present authorized bed capacity for operating purposes is six hundred fifty (650).

Population served:

The patient census as of the date of this brief 27 March 1952, was five hundred ninety-seven (597) consisting of the following classes:

572 active duty Navy and Marine
4 active and retired U. S. Army and Air Forces
11 retired.

From:

U. S. Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California,
(Ships in Long Beach Harbor)
U. S. Naval Air Station, Los Alamitos, California
U. S. Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California
U. S. Naval Station Port Heuneme, California
U. S. Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California.
U. S. Marine Corps Depot, Barstow, California
U. S. A.F. Base, March Field, California.
U. S. A.F.B. Norton, San Bernardino, California.

Dependents of Armed Forces Personnel in Metropolitan Area of Los Angeles and surrounding territory.

Personnel: Military and Civilian on board as of 27 March 1952, (date of this brief),

Civilian Personnel--296.

Military Personnel:

| | |
|-----|----------|
| 96 | Officers |
| 198 | Enlisted |
| 294 | Total |

(Breakdown of Officer Personnel)

53 Nurses, Navy
25 Medical Officers, Navy
2 Dental Officers, Navy
6 Misc., as SC, CHC, CEC, etc.
9 MSC, HC Officers, Navy

Quarters: Staff personnel, Military

Non-housekeeping Quarters:

Buildings occupied:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bachelor Officers' Quarters..... | 40 beds |
| Nurses Annex..... | 68 beds |
| Corpsmen Quarters..... | <u>416</u> beds |
| Total | 524 beds |

Buildings not occupied:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Nurses' Quarters..... | 110 beds |
| Wave Quarters..... | <u>56</u> beds |
| Total | 166 beds |

Housekeeping Quarters:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Officers..... | 10 |
|---------------|----|

The recreation facilities available to staff and patients are excellent. There are two large outdoor swimming pools, four tennis courts, boating and fishing facilities on the sixty acre lake, nine hole golf course, gymnasium, bowling alleys, pool and billiard tables, a soft-ball diamond, theatre with nightly movies, libraries and Officers' Mess (open), and a Chief Petty Officers' Club.

Utilities available: Electric power is obtained from the Southern California Edison Company sub-station ten miles distant. Water supply is obtained from four deep water wells located on a part of the hospital reservation. There are two reservoirs of 1,500,000 and 100,000 gallon capacity. In an emergency, water mains may be cut into the local civilian water supply. Gas service is furnished by the Southern California Gas Company. Heat, steam and hot water are provided by the two hospital power plants located in Units I and II. Sewage disposal is provided by the hospital sewage disposal plant.

Fire protection is furnished entirely by the hospital civilian fire department consisting of thirty-one (31) fire fighters and six (6) fire trucks.

All hospital laundry service is supplied by the modern, well-equipped hospital laundry.

The hospital guard and security force consists of thirteen (13) civilian guards.

Trash and other refuse are disposed of by hospital-provided facilities as indicated.

Transportation demands are heavy due to the location and size of the hospital reservation, requiring transportation of staff personnel, maintenance

force employees, patients from distant points, and the majority of supplies consumed by the hospital need to be trucked a distance of about forty-five (45) miles from the Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Pedro areas.

At the present time, the Hospital is still in the process of rehabilitation. Most of the ward and supporting facilities are now usable. Remaining to be completed are the following:

Nurses Quarters

Steam line from Unit I to Unit III

(in order to suspend operation of Unit III power house)

Hooking up of new water well, water softener, and treatment plant for the power house

Stand-by power

New paint shops, and

Rehabilitation of sewage disposal plant.

None of the above projects interferes with the present operation of the hospital, and will all be completed in the near future.

* * * * *